

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) An electronic device, comprising:
a radio unit configured to communicate with a network;
at least one memory device configured to store application and system programs; and
a processing unit coupled to said radio unit and said at least one memory device, said processing unit configured to run the application and system programs;
wherein at least one of the application and system programs include a software enabled switch for enabling and disabling the radio unit while leaving the processing unit in an operational state.

2. (Amended) An ~~The~~ electronic device ~~according to Claim 1,~~
comprising:
a radio unit configured to communicate with a network;
at least one memory device configured to store application and system
programs; and
a processing unit coupled to said radio unit and said at least one memory
device, said processing unit configured to run the application and system
programs;
wherein:

at least one of the application and system programs include a software enabled switch for enabling and disabling the radio unit;

at least one of said application and system programs is a program that utilizes the radio; and

at least one of said application and system programs comprises a notification program configured to notify a user if the radio is disabled upon invoking a program that utilizes ~~that~~ the radio.

3. (Original) The electronic device according to Claim 2, wherein said notification program is further configured to give the user an option to either,

continue executing the application or system program and automatically enable the radio device, or

discontinue execution of the application or system program and leaving the radio disabled.

4. (Original) The electronic device according to Claim 1, wherein:

said device further comprises a display screen; and

at least one of said system and application programs are configured to generate a graphical user interface on the display screen having at least one soft button programmed to enable and disable said radio device.

5. (Original) The electronic device according to Claim 4, wherein said graphical user interface is a GUI having a first soft button entitled "*RADIO ON*," and a second soft button labeled "*Radio OFF*," and an enablement status of the radio device is indicated by the corresponding soft button highlighted in one of bold, inverse video, flashing, or other indicators.

6. (Original) The electronic device according to Claim 1, further comprising a hard button programmed to enable and disable the radio device, wherein said hard button is a toggle switch that is activated by engaging the hard button for a predetermined length of time.

7. (Original) The electronic device according to Claim 6, wherein said hard button has at least one additional program invoked by pressing the hard button for a time period less than said predetermined length of time.

8. (Original) The electronic device according to Claim 6, wherein said predetermined length of time is approximately 1 second.

9. (Original) The electronic device according to Claim 1, wherein:
said software enabled switch includes,
a user interface with a drop down menu having user selectable options
for Radio On, Radio Off, and Schedule, and

programming configured to implement an option selected by the user.

10. (Original) The electronic device according to Claim 1, wherein the application and system programs include a scheduling application that provides user modifiable start and stop times that indicate when the radio unit is to be enabled and disabled.

11. (Amended) A notification mechanism ~~program~~ for notifying a user of a status of an RF device in an RF capable device, wherein the RF ~~enabled~~capable device includes a processing unit for running applications and a user interface, said notification program comprising:

an RF ~~procedure~~ alarm mechanism that identifies a program that has been invoked that requires the RF capabilities of the RF capable device;

a check mechanism ~~procedure~~ configured to check an enablement status of the RF device;

a user interface mechanism ~~procedure~~ configured to display a status of the RF device and provide the user with an option to continue with the program requiring RF capabilities and automatically enable the RF device or discontinue the program requiring RF capabilities without enabling the RF device;

wherein:

the RF ~~procedure~~ alarm mechanism wakes the notification mechanism ~~program~~ from a "sleep" mode and the notification mechanism ~~program~~ checks

the enablement status of the RF device using said check mechanism procedure,
and

if the RF device is not enabled, the notifications program invokes the user
interface mechanism procedure.

12. (Original) A method of notifying a user of an RF enablement status
of a device having RF capabilities, comprising the steps of:

identifying the invocation of a mechanism requiring access to the RF
capabilities;

determining the RF enablement status of the RF device;

if the RF device is not enabled:

prompting a user of the device if the mechanism is to be granted RF
access, and

retrieving a user input regarding whether RF access should be granted to
the mechanism requiring RF access;

if the user input indicates the mechanism is to be granted RF access:

automatically enabling the RF device, and

allowing the mechanism requiring RF access to continue and access the
RF device; and

if the user input indicates the mechanism should not be granted RF
access, then, shutting down the mechanism requiring RF access without
enabling the RF device.

13. (New) An electronic device, comprising:

a radio unit;

at least one of an application and system program configured to access the radio unit;

a processing unit coupled to said radio unit and said at least one memory device, said processing unit configured to run the at least one application and system program;

a software enabled switch for enabling and disabling the radio unit while leaving the processing unit in an operational state; and

said at least one application and system program includes a prompting mechanism configured to display a prompt to a user to determine if the radio unit is to be enabled before enabling the radio unit.

14. (New) The electronic device according to Claim 13, wherein:

said at least one application and system program includes a notification mechanism to identify when the radio unit has been enabled.

15. (New) The electronic device according to Claim 14, wherein the notification mechanism comprises display of an airplane icon.

16. (New) The electronic device according to Claim 13, further comprising a shutdown device configured to maintain the radio unit in a non enabled state, maintain the processing unit in an operational state, and shut down an application program that utilizes the radio unit upon a negative response to the prompt from the user.

17. (New) The electronic device according to Claim 1, further comprising a status display indicating enablement of the radio unit, wherein the status display comprises an airplane icon.

18. (New) The electronic device according to Claim 2, further comprising a status display indicating enablement of the radio unit, wherein the status display comprises an airplane icon.

19. (New) The notification mechanism according to Claim 11, further comprising a display indicating enablement status of the radio unit, wherein the display comprises an airplane icon.

20. (New) The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of displaying the enablement status of the RF device using an icon that comprises an airplane.